



Highwood Primary School

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Promoting Resilience, Achieving Potential

Co-Headteachers Ms M Green and Mrs D Harte

Friday 27th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you are all keeping safe during the second lockdown and that you and your families are looking forward to the season of goodwill. Festive fun is not cancelled at Highwood! Different year groups have been celebrating all of the major festivals and now it's time for Christmas. Each class has planned a Christmas activity that will be shared with parents via the Google Classrooms for your delight! Children will be able to bring in Christmas cards for their friends to post but we ask that they are bundled together in a large envelope or by using an elastic band to keep them together with a clear label of the class they are for. The post box will be emptied every Tuesday and the cards will be quarantined for 72 hours before being distributed on a Friday. In response to the parents that have been asking, should you wish to give a gift to a member of staff, please can we ask that it is clearly labelled and brought in to the school reception area so that it can be quarantined. The final date to drop any gifts will be Tuesday 15th December.

Covid-19 Updates

As we near the end of lockdown, please can we thank you for your continued co-operation over the last few weeks. Overall, the parking and congestion has eased, however some serious issues that have been brought to our attention by local residents are that cars are still stopping in the middle of Mead Way to let children out and vehicles are being parked inappropriately. A number of children are climbing the trees on the green to quite some height and we would ask that you discourage this, please for their safety and to ensure social distancing guidelines are observed. All in all, we are still working hard to keep your children safe and to ensure our staff can minimise the risks to themselves.

At the time of writing, Hertfordshire is in Tier 2 (High Risk) after lockdown and children should not be having sleepovers or mixing with their friends in other households.

Finally, please can we ask you to keep younger children with you at pick up times and to avoid the temptation to congregate in groups on the school site or outside the gates. Face masks are strongly encouraged at these busy times and are now mandatory in the school office area. We have been working tirelessly to keep everyone safe and keep all of our bubbles open; please help us to keep our team safe too.

Most of you are arriving on time and sticking to our one way system which is fantastic. Outside the KS2 gate, please can you ask your children to wait with you, keeping their scooters and bikes away from the entrance gate so that we can allow enough room for our parents and children to access the entrance.

Soft starts

This is when your child can come straight into their classroom at their staggered start time. Thank you for your positive feedback that this has created a calm start to your child's day.



Punctuality has been good so please keep it up. Here's another reminder of the times that your children can come in to school and what time they finish:

Class	Staggered Start	Finish Time
Nursery	8:45 - 9:00 am	11:50 am
Reception	8:45 - 9:00 am	3:00 pm
Year 1	8:40 - 8:50 am	3:00 pm
Year 2	8:50 - 9:00 am	3.15 pm
Year 6	8:30 - 8:40 am	3:00 pm
Year 5	8:40 - 8:50 am	3:10 pm
Year 4	8:50 - 9:00 am	3:20 pm
Year 3	9:00 - 9:10 am	3:30 pm

Remembrance Assembly

To commemorate this auspicious occasion, we hosted virtual assemblies for KS1 and KS2 and held a two minute silence to remember all of the service men and women who have lost their lives in the line of duty to keep us safe. Photos will feature in the November Round Up.

Social Media

To keep up to date with what is happening at Highwood, as well as our regular newsletters and monthly Round Ups, we tweet information on our Twitter page @HighwoodSchool. We have a whopping 375 followers already so if you don't already, please follow us to keep in touch with school news. We also have a Facebook page, @highwoodprimaryschool; please follow us to see what your children are getting up to.

Friends of Highwood

Thank you so much to everyone who ordered Christmas cards. They have now been printed and returned to school and will be finding their way to you in the coming days! A fantastic effort by all resulted in raising a fabulous £313.50, which will directly cover some fantastically fun "bounce" activities to reward the children in their efforts to "bounce back into reading"; we look forward to seeing the photos!

This week also sees the first draw in our school lottery. We have smashed our target and sold a staggering 152 weekly tickets! If each person continues to participate for the coming year that is a staggering £3286.40 raised for the school AND everyone has a chance to be a winner! Have you bought your tickets yet? If not sign up at :
yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/highwood-primary-school-pta

We hope you are enjoying our Deals of Christmas. At the moment, we feel it's more important than ever to support local business. Many of the participants are also parents at the school. Coming up we have candles, cakes, personalised gifts, Christmas trees, jewellery and more... remember to quote "Highwood" and the school will also benefit from your purchases! This year may be a little different but we are still working hard to raise much needed funds and we thank you for all your support.

We are very proud of you!

A big well done to Evie in Year 1 for her fantastic community effort. Evie has been busy fundraising for a cause close to her family's heart. She has raised more than £700! We are very proud of you Evie – well done 😊

<https://www.mynewsmag.co.uk/inspiring-effort-young-bushey-six-year-old-goes-above-and-beyond-to-help-worthy-cause/>

We also wanted to share this fantastic piece of home learning by Flynn in Year 4. Flynn designed and created his own xylophone and it is even in tune! Well done Flynn!



Farewell and Welcome Back

After four years teaching at Highwood, we will be bidding farewell to our Year 3 teacher, Miss Denny, who is relocating with her daughter in January. We would like to wish her the very best in the future and to extend our gratitude for everything that she has done for all of the children. You will certainly be missed by us all.

Just as one door closes, another opens; we will be welcoming Mrs Mazhar back to school in the new year, following her maternity leave. This means that the children in Maple 3 will have continuity in their education as she is already known to them.

Please continue to help us keep our school environment a vibrant and happy place to be for everyone.

All the best

Ms Green and Mrs Harte
Co-Headteachers